



General Assembly

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A/RES/49/186
6 March 1995

Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 100 (b)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/49/610/Add.2)]

49/186. Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in the Charter of the United Nations the peoples of the United Nations declared their determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Recalling also that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Emphasizing the significance and validity of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1/ and of the International Covenants on Human Rights 2/ in promoting respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Recalling its resolution 32/130 of 16 December 1977, in which it decided that the approach to future work within the United Nations system with respect to human rights questions should take into account the concepts set forth in that resolution,

Emphasizing the special importance of the purposes and principles proclaimed in the Declaration on the Right to Development, contained in the annex to its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986,

Reaffirming that the implementation of the right to development is an indispensable element in the process of creating the appropriate conditions for the full enjoyment and preservation of all human rights and fundamental liberties,

Taking into account the final documents of the Tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 1 to 6 September 1992, ^{3/}

Reiterating that the right to development is an inalienable human right and that equality of development opportunities is a prerogative both of nations and of individuals within nations,

Expressing its particular concern about the progressive worsening of living conditions in the developing world and the negative impact thereof on the full enjoyment of human rights, and especially about the very serious economic situation of the African continent and the disastrous effects of the heavy burden of the external debt for the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reiterating its profound conviction that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of civil and political rights and of economic, social and cultural rights,

Deeply convinced that, today more than ever, economic and social development and human rights are complementary elements leading to the same goal, that is, the maintenance of peace and justice among nations as the foundation for the ideals of freedom and well-being to which mankind aspires,

Reiterating that cooperation among all nations on the basis of respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State, including the right of every people to choose freely its own socio-economic and political system, is essential for the promotion of peace and development,

Reiterating also the importance of unconditional international cooperation for the attainment of the right to development,

Considering that the efforts of the developing countries to promote their own development should be supported by an increased flow of resources and by the adoption of appropriate and substantive measures for creating an external environment conducive to such development,

1. Reiterates its request that the Commission on Human Rights continue its current work on overall analysis with a view to further promoting and strengthening human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the question of the programme and working methods of the Commission, and on the overall analysis

^{3/} See A/47/675-S/24816.

fundamental freedoms in accordance with the provisions and ideas set forth in General Assembly resolution 32/130;

2. Affirms that a primary aim of international cooperation in the field of human rights is a life of freedom, dignity and peace for all peoples and for every human being, that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interrelated and that the promotion and protection of one category of rights should never exempt or excuse States from promoting and protecting the others;

3. Notes that the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, identified the situations and obstacles which affect the full enjoyment of human rights;

4. Reaffirms that the right to development is an inalienable human right;

5. Reaffirms also that international peace and security are essential elements for achieving the full realization of the right to development;

6. Considers it necessary for all Member States to promote international cooperation on the basis of respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State, including the right of every people to choose freely its own socio-economic and political system, with a view to solving international economic, social and humanitarian problems;

7. Urges all States to cooperate with the Commission on Human Rights in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

8. Decides that the approaches to future work within the United Nations system on human rights matters should take into account the content of the Declaration on the Right to Development and the need for the implementation thereof;

9. Decides to consider this question at its fifty-first session.

94th plenary meeting
23 December 1994



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[on the report of the Third Committee (A/49/610/Add.2)]

49/187. Development of public information activities in the field of human rights

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that activities to improve public knowledge in the field of human rights are essential to the fulfilment of the purposes of the United Nations set out in Article 1, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations and that carefully designed programmes of teaching, education and information are essential to the achievement of lasting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights,

Recognizing the catalytic effect of initiatives of the United Nations on national and regional public information activities in the field of human rights,

Recognizing also the valuable role that non-governmental organizations can play in those endeavours,

Believing that the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights is a valuable complement to the activities of the United Nations aimed at the further promotion and protection of human rights, and recalling the importance attached by the World Conference on Human Rights to strengthening the Campaign,

Welcoming the appointment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with the function, *inter alia*, of coordinating relevant United Nations education and public information programmes in the field of human rights, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993,

Recognizing that the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat is the focal point for elaborating, coordinating and harmonizing United Nations policies and activities in the field of information, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/44 B of 10 December 1993,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights; ^{1/}
2. Appreciates the measures taken by the Department of Public Information and the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat to ensure the further production and effective dissemination of human rights information materials in cooperation with regional, national and local organizations, as well as with Governments;
3. Notes with appreciation the dissemination by the Department of Public Information and the Centre for Human Rights of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, ^{2/} and of information on follow-up activities;
4. Requests the Centre for Human Rights, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, to finalize its comprehensive review of the programme of information and publications in the field of human rights, including the elaboration of a new information strategy, and to make an assessment of the effectiveness of this programme, and encourages the Centre to continue its efforts towards streamlining and focusing its publications programme;
5. Encourages the Centre for Human Rights to continue the development of training courses and materials, including targeted training manuals for professional audiences, as well as the dissemination of human rights information materials as a component of technical assistance projects;
6. Welcomes the efforts of the Department of Public Information and the Centre for Human Rights to disseminate information on human rights by electronic means, including through the United Nations Bibliographic Information System;
7. Notes that a database has been established by the Centre for Human Rights for the promotion of all aspects of human rights;
8. Urges the Department of Public Information to continue to utilize United Nations information centres for the purpose of timely dissemination, within their designated areas of activity, of basic information and reference materials on human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the reports of States parties under human rights instruments and, to this end, to ensure that United Nations information centres are supplied with adequate quantities of those materials;
9. Requests the Department of Public Information to continue to make use of the resources available for this purpose to produce audiovisual materials on human rights issues;

^{1/} A/49/582.

^{2/} A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

10. Requests the Secretary-General to take advantage, as much as possible, of the collaboration of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights, including in the dissemination of human rights materials;

11. Encourages all Member States to make special efforts to provide, facilitate and promote publicity for the activities of the United Nations in the field of human rights, including through support of United Nations information centres, to accord priority to the dissemination in their respective national and local languages of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ^{3/} the International Covenants on Human Rights ^{4/} and other international instruments, as well as reports under human rights instruments, and to provide information and education on the practical ways in which the rights and freedoms enjoyed under these instruments can be exercised;

12. Supports the recommendation contained in section II.D of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action that Member States develop specific programmes and strategies for ensuring the widest human rights education and the dissemination of public information, taking particular account of the human rights needs of women, and encourages Member States, in drawing up national action plans for the promotion and protection of human rights, to include broad-based education and public information programmes on human rights;

13. Calls upon the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to coordinate and harmonize human rights information strategies within the United Nations system;

14. Calls upon the Centre for Human Rights to coordinate the substantive activities of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights pursuant to the direction of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, and to serve as liaison with Governments, regional and national institutions, non-governmental organizations and concerned individuals in the development and implementation of the activities of the Campaign;

15. Calls upon the Department of Public Information to coordinate the public information activities of the Campaign and, in its responsibility as secretariat to the Joint United Nations Information Committee, to promote coordinated system-wide information activities in the field of human rights;

16. Stresses the need for close cooperation between the Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information in the implementation of the aims established for the Campaign and the need for the United Nations to harmonize the activities in the field of human rights with those of other organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, with regard to the dissemination of information on international humanitarian law, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, with regard to education for human rights;

^{3/} Resolution 217 A (III).

^{4/} Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

17. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution for consideration under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

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